

Media Release  
22 April 2025

## EDB launches programme for experienced founders to build and scale global ventures from Singapore

1. The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) has launched the Global Founder Programme (GFP), a targeted initiative for experienced founders to launch and scale their next venture from Singapore.
2. A key aim of the GFP is to establish innovative new ventures with potential to be global industry leaders. These ventures can leverage Singapore's vibrant tech, R&D and talent pool to grow. The growth of these ventures will in turn strengthen Singapore's startup ecosystem.
3. Mr Jermaine Loy, Managing Director, EDB said: "Singapore is at the nexus of global business, innovation, and talent. Through the Global Founders Programme, we look forward to partnering experienced founders to build new ventures with global potential, right here in Singapore."
4. GFP founders are serial entrepreneurs and seasoned builders from around the world, including Singapore. They bring their deep domain expertise, wide networks, and experience from having successfully grown new businesses and building global ventures at an accelerated pace. *Refer to Annex A for more details on GFP founder criteria.*
5. A holistic suite of resources and tools will be available to GFP founders, along the journey of their venture growth. This includes:
  - a) **Access to Singapore's ecosystem:** Founders will join a community of like-minded entrepreneurs, strategic partners, investors and advisors with curated programming. Founders will also be invited to apply for Singapore's ONE Pass for top business talent and can tap on resources to navigate Singapore's business landscape and lifestyle options.
  - b) **Operational ease and setup:** Support for streamlined business setup and talent facilitation services for founders to build high-performing teams in Singapore.
  - c) **Expert networks:** Founders can build new ventures with support from experts and customers through EDB introductions at suitable junctures in their early-stage growth journeys, to refine product-market fit and business strategies. This helps to drive strategic partnerships, secure access to markets and capital, as well as expand into new market segments.
  - d) *Refer to Annex B for a breakdown of GFP support tools.*

## **Thriving community of new ventures and founders**

6. Over the past two years, EDB has been working with over 50 founders and facilitated the launch of over 30 new ventures. These ventures have raised over US\$450 million in early-stage funding, cutting across diverse industries such as enterprise SaaS, fintech, healthcare and manufacturing. A rapidly growing number are emerging in high-growth sectors like artificial intelligence (AI), sustainability and deep tech. Many of these ventures have also provided opportunities for Singaporeans to take up leading roles, including in product development and international business growth.
7. AI wealth platform Arta Finance, which launched in October 2024, collaborated with EDB to develop and market test its B2B strategy for financial institutions (FIs). The company is now expanding its AI-driven product innovation from Singapore to consumers, partners, banks and FIs internationally, with the local team driving global marketing, partnerships and app development alongside its dual headquarters in the U.S.
8. Caesar Sengupta, Co-Founder and CEO of Arta, said: "Our partnership with EDB was instrumental in conceptualising and kickstarting our B2B market approach and go-to-market strategy for banks. Over a focused 13-week period, their deep industry insights and facilitated connections helped us refine our proposition into a robust white-label solution – now a core pillar of our business strategy. As we gear up to partner with large and small banks globally, we are confident that the strong foundation built in Singapore will serve as a blueprint for success."
9. SEAI Technologies is a Singapore-headquartered AI-driven company that provides proprietary API-based machine learning solutions to enterprises. Its platform helps businesses across finance, retail and manufacturing unlock growth, operational efficiency and smarter decision-making.
10. Co-Founder and CEO of SEAI Technologies, Magnus Ekbohm, added: "Singapore offers one of the most dynamic ecosystems in the world for founders, combining top, multidisciplinary talent, forward-thinking regulations and a deep commitment to advancing research and technology. It is the perfect environment to test, scale and explore new areas of growth. I call Singapore home because of its unique blend of connectivity, ambition, and community. I'm excited to be part of EDB's Global Founder Programme and to be building something new from the ground up here, with the potential for global impact."
11. Applications for EDB's GFP are now open and available to a limited number of successful applicants each year. Please visit the following website for more details: <https://www.edb.gov.sg/en/global-founder-programme.html>

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**About the Singapore Economic Development Board**

The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), a government agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore's position as a global centre for business, innovation, and talent. We undertake investment promotion and industry development, and work with international businesses, both foreign and local, by providing information, connection to partners and access to government incentives for their investments. Our mission is to create sustainable economic growth, with vibrant business and good job opportunities for Singapore and Singaporeans. For more information on EDB, please visit [www.edb.gov.sg](http://www.edb.gov.sg)

**About EDB New Ventures**

EDB New Ventures is the venture building arm of EDB. Its aim is to support the creation and scaling of high potential new ventures from Singapore to become globally leading businesses. It actively works with established companies on corporate venturing, as well as prominent business leaders and serial entrepreneurs to build these new ventures. In addition to catalysing the venture building ecosystem in Singapore, EDB New Ventures provides for our partners and portfolio ventures access to industry networks, expertise, talent and risk-sharing capital.

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## Annex A: Founder Criteria for GFP

Founders eligible for the programme should:

1. Have a proven track record of building and scaling successful new businesses, in the following categories:
  - a) A successful founder who has founded and scaled a startup into a global business; or
  - b) A key employee of an MNC or tech unicorn who has developed and grown a major new product or business line; or
  - c) A deep tech founder who has led a startup to achieve strong commercial traction in areas such as healthcare, hardware, artificial intelligence (AI) and green economy; and
2. Ready to establish and scale their next venture, with Singapore as the global headquarters

## Annex B: Breakdown of Support Tools from GFP

*Access to GFP's support tools is tailored for founders and based on key criteria.*

Founder Journey Phase	Details on Support for Building and Scaling in Singapore
Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invitation to <a href="#">ONE Pass</a>, Singapore's personalised pass for top talent, to explore new business opportunities and living in Singapore</li><li>• Business guides and personalised introductions to explore Singapore's ecosystem</li><li>• Admission to a community of global founders for peer advice and networking, as well as regular programming with strategic partners, investors and advisors</li></ul>
Build	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Streamlined business setup and hiring in Singapore, including local talent connections, as well as facilitation for <a href="#">Tech.Pass</a> and <a href="#">Employment Pass (EP)</a> for key hires</li><li>• Access EDB's Venture Builders and network of experts who can support founders to refine their go-to-market strategy</li><li>• Connections to first customers and companies looking to pilot new tech and solutions, including potential grant support for eligible pilots</li><li>• Access to EDB's network of financial and strategic investors including corporations, regional venture capital (VC) firms, family offices and SG Growth Capital (SGGC)</li></ul>
Accelerate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A dedicated EDB team working alongside founders to address key business needs and enable regional or global venture expansion</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to additional support schemes by EDB and other government agencies in Singapore</li><li>• Potential profiling opportunities on highly visible platforms by EDB and its partners</li></ul>
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